

(b) Indian Airlines have reached an understanding with the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal regarding measures for ensuring security of Indian Airlines flights taking off from Kathmandu. These include:

- (i) Access control to the aircraft on the ground by Indian Airlines.
 - (ii) Ledger-point frisking of passengers and their hand baggage on a specially enclosed platform by Indian Airlines.
 - (iii) Secondary x-Ray screening of checked baggage in the baggage make-up area.
- (c) Does not arise.

Evening Flights to Cochin, Kozhikode and Trivandrum

169. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian airlines flights are scheduled in such a way that a person can not travel to Trivandrum, Cochin and Kozhikode in the afternoon as all the flights to these destinations leave in the forenoon; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take steps to have some of the flights operated in the afternoon to these destinations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Some services of Indian Airlines leave in the afternoon to some destinations in Kerala. Due to various limitations like availability of aircraft, the need to provide services on major routes in the morning hours, competition and other operational reasons, it is not feasible to operate more services in the afternoon.

Poor Quality of Service offered by AI and IA

170. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines and Air India have accumulated losses over the years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that performance and quality of service to the passengers have nose-dived over the years and there have been mounting complaints in this regard;

(c) whether Government have been contemplating partial privatisation of both the airlines; and

(d) if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Yes, Sir.

(b) There is scope for improvement. Both the airlines constantly endeavour to bring about improvements in the services rendered to the passengers both on the ground and in the air.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved in principle, bringing down the equity of the Government of India in Air India to 40% through a process of disinvestment by sale of 40% of equity to a strategic partner, upto 10% to employees and the balance by sale to financial institutions and/or on the share market. In the event of the strategic partner being a joint venture with an element of foreign holding, the arrangement should be such as would limit foreign holding in Air India to a maximum of 260% of the total equity.

As regards, Indian Airlines, Government has decided to disinvest 51 percent of equity of Indian Airlines out of which 26 percent of the equity would be given to a strategic partner. Remaining 25% of the equity would be offered to employees, financial institutions and public.

Civil Aviation Policy

171. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Draft Civil Aviation Policy is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the primary objectives of the proposed policy and by what time the policy is likely to be formulated;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are serious differences about creation of Civil Aviation Authority;

(d) if so, the details and functions of Authority; and

(e) what would be the future role of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security in the event of creation of Civil Aviation Authority?